

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 TRSE-00 EB-11 COME-00 OMB-01

MC-02 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19

IO-15 /157 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:JELEADER:MMK

APPROVED BY NEA:LBLAINGEN

PM/PA:ECOCHRANE (SUBS)

DOD/ISA:JHALE (DRAFT)

NEA/RA:AMUNDY (SUBS)

NEA/INS:DKUX

EUR/NE:JBECELIA

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P R 032243Z OCT 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

SECDEF

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 197163

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CE, US, UK

SUBJ: PURCHASE OF SHIP FOR SRI LANKA NAVY

REF: COLOMBO 2251; STATE 194367

1. US NAVY IS ANXIOUS COMMENCE DECOMMISSIONING PROCESS FOR COURTNEY CLASS DESTROYER ESCORT MENTIONED STATE 170400. THIS REQUIRES ITS RELEASE FROM LISTING AS POSSIBLE SALE ITEM TO SRI LANKA NAVY.

2. WE BELIEVE FROM ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS COLOMBO
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2251 THAT WE ARE NOT NOW IN POSITION OFFER COURTNEY CLASS

VESSEL TO SRI LANKA. THIS ASSESSMENT BASED ON DESIRE CONTINUE ENCOURAGE BRITISH TO UNDERTAKE SALE DESPITE NEGATIVE READING WE GOT FROM UK FCO'S CHALMERS (STATE 194367) ON PROSPECTS. FURTHERMORE ADDITIONAL STUDY OF COURTNEY CLASS CHARACTERISTICS SUGGESTS IT PROBABLY NOT MOST SUITABLE VESSEL FOR SRI LANKA BECAUSE OF DIFFICULT MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS.

3. FOR COLOMBO: WE SEEK COLOMBO'S URGENT CONCURRENCE IN RELEASE OF COURTNEY CLASS VESSEL FROM HOLD LIST. IF YOU BELIEVE IT APPROPRIATE YOU CAN TELL GSL THAT ONLY CLASS SHIP WE HAVE IDENTIFIED FOR POSSIBLE SALE DOES NOT APPEAR FIT SLN NEED FOR EASY MAINTENANCE SHIP.

4. FOR LONDON: REQUEST YOU FOLLOW UP ON YOUR CONVERSATIONS WITH CHALMERS (LONDON 10883) INQUIRING WHETHER BRITISH MIGHT RECONSIDER POSSIBILITY OF CREDIT FOR SRI LANKA PURCHASE OF BRITISH SHIP. YOU CAN SHARE WITH BRITISH INFO IN COLOMBO'S 2430 (BEING REPEATED LONDON) REGARDING ECONOMIC REFORM MEASURES ADOPTED BY GSL. YOU MAY SAY WE CONSIDER THESE SIGNIFICANT IN MEETING PREVIOUS DONOR OBJECTIONS TO CREDIT FOR SRI LANKA ON ARGUMENT GSL NOT SERIOUSLY ATTACKING ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. RUSH

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